

HOUSE No. 391

By Ms. Balser of Newton, petition of Ruth B. Balser and others to ensure that parents can participate fully and effectively with school personnel in the development of educational programs for their child. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Ruth B. Balser	Geraldine Creedon
Alice K. Wolf	Frank I. Smizik
William N. Brownsberger	Steven A. Tolman
Cory Atkins	Patricia D. Jehlen
Barbara A. L'Italien	Kay Khan
Tom Sannicandro	Richard J. Ross

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO INFORMATION FOR PARENTS' EVALUATORS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 3 of chapter 71B of the General Laws, as appearing in the
2 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end of
3 paragraph four the following paragraph:—
4 To insure that parents can participate fully and effectively with
5 school personnel in the consideration and development of appro-
6 priate educational programs for their child, a school committee shall,
7 upon request by parents, provide timely access to parents and/or
8 parent-designated independent evaluators and educational consul-
9 tants for observations of a child's current program and/or of any
10 program proposed for the child, including both academic and non-
11 academic aspects of any such program. Parents and/or their
12 designees shall be afforded access of sufficient duration and extent
13 to enable them to evaluate the child's performance in a current
14 program and/or the ability of a proposed program to enable the child
15 to make effective progress. School committees shall impose no

16 conditions or restrictions on such observations that are not necessary
17 to ensure the safety of children in a program or the integrity of the
18 program while under observation.